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RE: Proposed AT&T and T-Mobile Merger

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I understand you and the Commission are reviewing the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. There are some issues that I hope you will keep in mind as you review this merger.

The President has set a goal of covering 98% of America's population with high-speed broadband. Broadband is becoming increasingly important for all of us to do our jobs and enjoy the benefits of technology. This AT&T-T-Mobile merger will bring 4G LTE coverage to rural states like North Dakota and will allow this next generation technology to cover over 97% of the nation's residents—nearly accomplishing the President's goal. This high-speed network will help provide broadband across rural states like ours that have not fully shared in previous network build-outs.

Associated with this expansion will be increased investment in network infrastructure in the coming years. That means jobs will be created as workers are hired to deliver and maintain this expansive high-speed wireless network. In addition to job creation, this merger will bring a tremendous amount of benefit to consumers in rural and underserved areas that will have access to high speed broadband. Increased access will enable applications for business, education and health care that will make work more efficient and improve quality of life for our families.

And for the workers of T-Mobile, this merger is chance to have a voice in the workplace. That is because AT&T is the only union employer in the wireless industry. Upon completion of the merger, thousands of T-Mobile employees would be able to freely decide whether or not to choose representation in their workplace.

On balance, this merger will mean LTE wireless coverage for rural states like North Dakota, an economic "shot in the arm" for our country, and a voice at the workplace for thousands of workers. For all these reasons, we urge the FCC to approve this merger.

Sincerely,


David L. Kemnitz

President

North Dakota AFL-CIO